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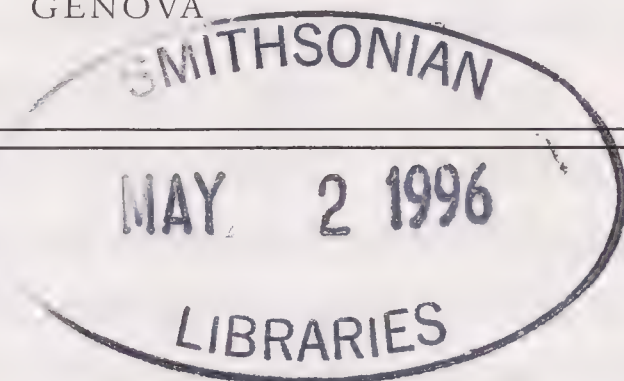
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ANNALI DEL MUSEO CIVICO DI STORIA NATURALE "G. DORIA"

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STEFANO DE RANIERI (*) AND MARIO MORI (**)

NEW RECORDS OF *PARASQUILLA FERUSSACI* (ROUX) OFF THE NORTH TYRRHENIAN SEA

(CRUSTACEA, STOMATOPODA)

In the Mediterranean Sea the family Pseudosquillidae is represented by two genera comprising two species, *Pseudosquillopsis cerisii* (Roux 1828) and *Parasquilla ferussaci* (Roux 1830) (HOLTHUIS, 1987; FROGLIA & MANNING, 1989). The first species is known from Greece and other localities of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin (FROGLIA & MANNING, 1989) whilst the second, *P. ferussaci*, has been recorded in numerous localities of the Mediterranean, off the coasts of Sicily, Naples, Porto S. Stefano and Nice (GIESBRECHT, 1910; MANNING, 1962, 1977, 1978; ARENA & LI GRECI, 1973), and of the Western Atlantic, off Sesimbra (Portugal), Cadiz, Madeira, Senegal and Gulf of Guinea (FIGUEIREDO, 1962; PÉRÈS, 1964); MANNING, 1974, 1977; SARDÁ *et al.*, 1982; BISCOITO, 1985) (Fig. 1).

P. ferussaci in the North Tyrrhennian Sea has already recorded by MANNING (1962). However, the record was based upon a single male specimens, present in the Museo of Genoa, of which only a vague location is known, that is, in the market of Porto S. Stefano (Grosseto, North Tyrrhenian Sea).

(*) Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ambiente e del Territorio dell'Università, via A. Volta 6
- 56100 Pisa, Italy

(**) Istituto di Anatomia Comparata dell'Università, viale Benedetto XV 5 - 16132 Genova,
Italy

It may thus be of interest to record once again the occurrence of this species in the area mentioned above. Especially because of the data collated from the catches may prove useful for a greater understanding of the species' poorly known ecology.

MATERIAL - Three females with a total length ranging from 97 to 99 mm were collected, between 10.20 p.m. to 0.20, in the North Tyrrhenian Sea, 12 miles SE of Elba Isle (Central Mediterranean), shot: Lat. 42°27,82'N Long. 10°22,40'E, hauled: Lat. 42°49,96'N Long. 10°33,28'E; 248 m, epibathyal muds, on 1st July 1992.

Two males with a total length ranging from 102 to 103 mm were collected, between 5.30 p.m. to 7.30, in the North Tyrrhenian Sea, 4 miles SW of Giglio Isle (Central Mediterranean), shot: Lat. 42°15,64'N Long. 10°46,11'E, hauled: Lat. 42°25,05'N Long. 10°37,85'E; 350 m, epibathyal muds, on 17th February 1994.

The specimens' colouring was light on the central dorsal part of the body and dark green on the lateral parts, as well as on the posterior margin of the telson, the uropods, pleopods and pereopods. The inner regions of the mero, dactilo of the third maxillipeds, antennae, antennules, cilia of antennal scale and uropods were bright orange.

One specimens has been deposited in the Museum of Natural History of Genoa, one in the Museum of Natural History of Calci (Pisa), and three in the Mori's personale collection.

REMARKS - Both the environment and the depth in which the individuals were caught seem to be consistent with known in the literature. In fact this species, has been caught at depths ranging from 175 to 715 m (FIGUEIREDO, 1962; MANNING, 1962; 1974; PÉRÈS, 1964; ARENA & LI GRECI, 1973; SARDÁ *et al.*, 1982). The colouring also concurs with the descriptions provided by the above mentioned authors.

From 1985 to 1994 about three hundred hours of trawling were undertaken in the Northern Tyrrhenian Sea but no individuals of such species were caught. Nevertheless, the hauls were performed during day time, whilst the five specimens were caught at night. In many years of research these were the sole two nocturnal hauls performed.

The nocturnal behaviour of the Stomatopoda it is well known. FROGLIA & GIANNINI (1989) have demonstrated that there is a tight relation between nighttime catches and the feeding behaviour of *Squilla mantis* (L., 1758). It may be possible to presume that also *P. ferussaci*

may have a feeding activity which tends to be carried out during dark hours. Fishermen assert, infact, that *P. ferussaci* is not a rare prey during night time trawlings. It is then possible to presume a significantly greater numerical presence of *P. ferussaci* in the North Tyrrhenian Sea than that drawn from the data on catches.

In a previous paper, DE RANIERI & MORI (1992) have reported the discovery of three squillids species in the North Tyrrhenian Sea: *Squilla mantis* (L., 1758), *Rissoides desmaresti* (Risso, 1816) and *R. pallidus* (Giesbrecht, 1910). These new findings of the pseudosquillid species, *P. ferussaci*, rise to four the stomatopods species actually known for this area.

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RIASSUNTO

Durante due cale notturne, sui fondi epibatiali, tra 248 e 350 m di profondità nel Tirreno settentrionale (Mediterraneo Centrale) sono stati catturati cinque individui di *Parasquilla ferussaci*. L'ora di cattura e i racconti dei pescatori permettono di ipotizzare per questa specie una maggiore attività al di fuori della propria tana durante le ore di scarsa illuminazione. Inoltre si può ritenere che *P. ferussaci* sia presente sui fondi epibatiali del Tirreno settentrionale con una quantità maggiore di quanto le rare catture lascino supporre.

SUMMARY

The finding of five specimens of *Parasquilla ferussaci* Roux, collected during two nocturnal hauls, on muddy epibathyal bottoms, between 248 and 350 m depth, in the North Tyrrhenian Sea (Central Mediterranean) is reported. On the basis of both the time of catch of the specimens and the fishermen's observations it has been presumed that *P. ferussaci* may have a feeding behaviour during dark hours, and that its numerical presence in the Northern Tyrrhenian Sea is probably greater than that drawn from the data on catches.

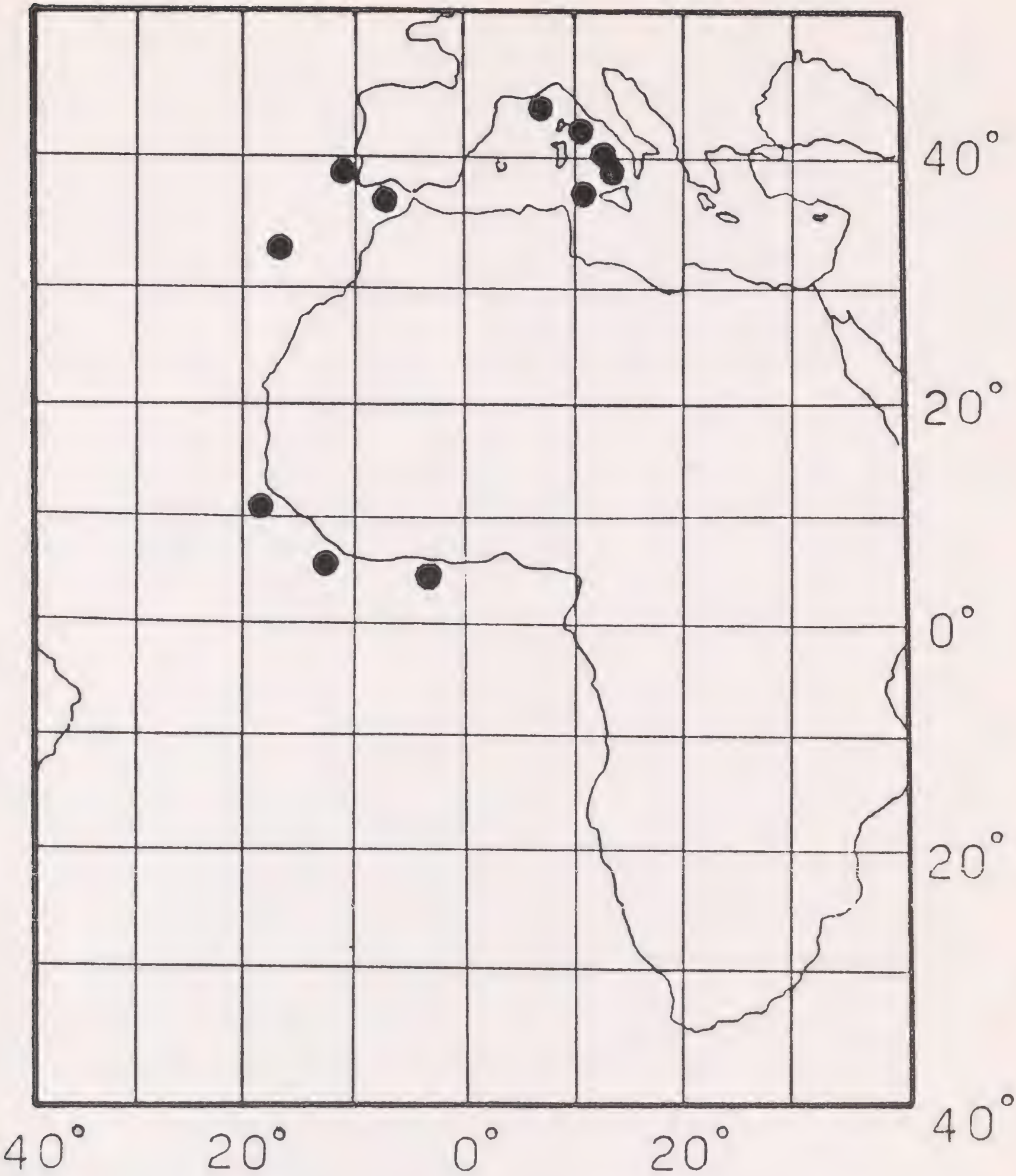


Fig. 1: Distribution of *Parasquilla ferussaci* in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (by BISCOITO, 1985, redrawn).